

Message Text

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10

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

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R 041651Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7368

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION US UN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION US NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, ILO, EEC, XA, XF

SUBJECT: ITALY AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. IN THREE HOURS OF CONVERSATION APRIL 30 WITH MFA

DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, WALTER GARDINI,

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AND OTHER MFA OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR BROAD RANGE OF

MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS FOUND A BROAD RANGE OF AGREEMENT WITH US VIEWS AND OBJECTIVES CONCERNING UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

2. IN HIS CONVERSATIONS LEWIS STRESSED OUR VIEW THAT INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF ISSUES UNDERLYING MODERN DIPLOMACY MAKES BROAD AND EARLY CONSULTATION VITAL AMONG STATES. GARDINI RESPONDED QUICKLY AND WITH CONVICTION, POINTING OUT THAT, FOR ITALY, LITTLE WAS OF REAL FOREIGN POLICY IMPORT OTHER THAN ATLANTIC/EUROPE AND THE UN. YET, HE POINTED OUT, HIS MINISTRY IS STILL STRUCTURED, GEOGRAPHICALLY AND FUNCTIONALLY, FOR BILATERAL PROBLEMS.

3. LEWIS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF US AND ITS WESTERN FRIENDS WORKING TOGETHER. FOR EXAMPLE HE HOPED THAT MEMBERS OF THE NINE COULD HELP FURTHER ERODE THE AFRICAN BLOC AT THE UN, MANY OF WHOSE MEMBERS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS HAVE VOTED BY REFLEX, WITHOUT ANY REAL CONSIDERATION OF WHERE THEIR OWN VITAL INTERESTS LAY. LEWIS NOTED THAT SOME AFRICAN STATES ARE GROWING MORE REALISTIC, AND THAT AFRICAN VOTES MAY BE CRUCIAL IN FUTURE CONTESTS, FOR EXAMPLE IN THE ISRAELI ISSUE. HE STRESSED THAT AN ATTEMPT OR, EVEN WORSE, A SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO SUSPEND OR EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS COULD HAVE A CALAMITOUS EFFECT ON AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE UN. GARDINI AND OTHERS ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FACT AND INDICATED THE GOI PROPOSES TO CONTINUE FIRM WHENEVER THE ISSUE ARISES.

4. LEWIS ALSO FOCUSED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETINGS, SUCH AS UNCTAD OR THE UPCOMING NON-ALIGNED MEETING AT SRI LANKA, WHICH INFLUENCE AND OFTEN DETERMINE THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN SUBSEQUENT UN SESSIONS. TIMELY CONSULTATION AND, WHERE POSSIBLE, CONCERTED ACTION IS NECESSARY ON THE PART OF THE WESTERN AND OTHER DEVELOPED STATES IF MANY LDC'S ARE NOT TO ARRIVE AT NEW YORK ALREADY LOCKED INTO POSITION. AMONG THE ISSUES WHICH THE USG HOPES TO SEE NIPPED EARLY ON IS CUBAN AGITATION PERTAINING TO PUERTO RICO. LEWIS POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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SENSITIVE TO AMERICANS AND THAT ADVERSE UN ACTION COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR US PUBLIC WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR THE UN. WHILE THEY MADE NO EXPLICIT COMMITMENTS, THE ITALIANS LISTENED CLOSELY, NODDING AFFIRMATIVELY.

5. SOMEWHAT DIFFERING US/GOI PERCEPTIONS OF OUR PROBLEM WITH THE ILO APPEARED BUT ALL CONCERNED AGREED THAT PROBLEM IS NOW TO GET TO WORK PRAGMATICALLY TO RESTORE ILO TO HEALTH.

6. THE NEED EARLY TO IDENTIFY OUR COMMON INTERESTS AND DIFFERENCES AGAIN EMERGED IN DISCUSSING THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AT THE UN. THE ITALIANS FELT THAT THE EC NINE PROCEDURES NEED OVERHAUL AND AGREED WITH LEWIS THAT SOME OF THE OTHER CONSULTATIVE GROUPINGS (VINCI GROUP, WEO, ETC.) ARE NOT STRUCTURED OPTIMALLY.

7. AS ONE BIT OF SUBSTANTIVE MATTER WHICH NEITHER WE NOR LEWIS HAD PREVIOUSLY HEARD, COUNSELOR PISANI (UN AFFAIRS) REPORTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A MOVE AT THE NAIROBI UNCTAD MEETING TO SEE TO IT THAT ISRAEL IS NOT AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE UN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. VOLPE

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